Madeleine Rotschy is shown in a rare photo of the interior of a pioneer homestead.

# County's history retold

**CLARK COUNTY HISTORY 1977, 84 pages, paperback, published by the Fort Vancouver Historical Society, $3, available at Clark County Historical Museum.**

Personal reminiscences by an early-day Amboy-area resident of homesteading long before what he describes as "the feverish mob of today," are a highlight of the latest Clark County historical annual.

The author is Edgar Rotschy, who arrived in 1891 and whose family still is prominent in the area.

Also part of the new booklet are an article on the Yacolt fire of 1902, a story on Richard Ough and his Indian bride, an article on Beacon Rock and a pioneering speech on woman suffrage by Henry Knapp.

The Rotschy material takes up about two-fifths of the annual and contains many items on pioneers of the Amboy-Chelatchie vicinity, plus some quite occasional whimsical comments and anecdotes about life in those days.

An example is the story of a Chelatchie man who had thought he was making a good trade when he sold his farm in the Portland area before coming to Chelatchie, but the district in which the farm was situated was incorporated in Portland, and the buyer cut it up into lots and made a lot of money.

"That made old man Ulery sick, and to soothe his feelings he started to smoke, and from that time on was never seen without a corncob in his mouth," Rotschy recalled.

Among many other individuals mentioned are a sober, "very bossy" woman who "became mentally deranged, in middle life, with a fixation for romancing." She became involved in a scandal with a local male, and was shot by her husband.

The numerous names mentioned in the Rotschy story are a reminder that the historical society may want to prepare an index of all its volumes with similar to the detailed record for the Oregon Historical Society volumes, if the annuals are to be of effective use for researchers.

Betsy Ough, full-blooded Cascades Tribe princess and wife of Richard Ough.

Milt Bona, former editor of the annual, is the author of a story on Richard Howe or Ough, first white Washougal settler, and his Indian wife, Betsy. The story includes a detailed account of the couple's meeting and early days together.

Yvonne Montchalin of Skamania County, a member of the board of trustees of Clark College, contributed a story to the 1977 annual on Beacon Rock, with pictures and details on the Biddle family's contribution to preserving and enhancing that monolith.

"The Day of the Dragon," a brief account of the 1902 Yacolt fire, was written by Joan and Gene Olson, and was reprinted from a book, "Washington Times and Trails."

The new history is the first under the editorship of Paul Aldinger and Richard Hawkins of Clark College, and follows generally the pattern and style of the former editor, Bona. — **Ted Van Arsdol, Columbian Staff Writer**

Richard Ough (Howe), Hudson's Bay Company seaman, born in England May 19, 1790, according to his tombstone in Washougal Cemetery.

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Wedding photo of Madeleine and Edgar Rotschy, taken Aug. 1, 1894.

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